

OF THE

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,

-

SYRACUSE, N. Y.

on site of the Courier Building S

T. S. Truair's Print, Syracuse

HISTORY.

On the 25th of May, 1838, thirty-four members of the Presbyterian Church, in this place, and three persons from Societies abroad, met in the schoolroom of Doct. Mayo, on Church street, (where they had been worshipping a short time previous,) and were constituted, with appropriate services, "The First Congregational Church in Syracuse."

This new Society was formed from a widelyfelt necessity of larger Church accommodations, and of much greater efforts to spread the Gospel among the multitudes in this town and vicinity, who were living without God and dying without hopes. John T. Avery having been previously invited, had commenced laboring with the new So-

ciety, as its Minister.

On the 16th of August, 1838, the Church edifice was publicly dedicated to the worship of God—the late John Frost preaching on the occasion. During the first year of the Society's existence, a revival of great interest and power, spread through the town, as part of the fruits of which, nearly a hundred united with this Church on profession of their faith.

In September, 1839, Mr. Avery resigned his pastorship, to labor as an Evangelist, at the west, and Direk C. Lansing was unanimously chosen to succeed him. After a few months, the health of Mr. Lansing so far declined, that he felt compelled to seek a dismission. Aaron Judson was called in his stead, and was installed Pastor of the Church

in the month of April, 1840.

In February, 1841, Mr. Judson resigned his place, and was succeeded by Mr. Lansing, who was again called to the work of the Ministry here, and remained with the Church till the commencement of 1843. Thomas Castleton was engaged for a number of months, as temporary supply, and during his labors, the Church enjoyed a revival of considerable interest, which was in a state of progress when Mr. Castleton commenced his labors. At the close of his Ministry, some twenty members left the Church, to form a Second Presbyterian Society in this place.

In April, 1844, Charles G. Lee was called to this Church, and continued to exercise his Ministry till January, 1846, when differences of sentiment and opinion were found to exist so widely among brethren and between pastor and people, that Mr. Lee resigned; and soon after about forty sought dismission from the Church, to form the Park

Presbyterian Society.

In April, 1846, Ovid Miner became the Minister of this Church, and in the spring of 1848 a revival of limited, though of precions interest, was enjoyed. Mr. Miner having resigned his charge as Pastor of this Church, in the spring of 1849, in November following, a call was extended to Porter H. Snow

to become their Pastor, which was accepted, and his duties entered upon immediately. Whole number of persons received into the Church since

its organization, Whole number dismissed daring the same time. excommunicated. deaths. 198

now in communion.

The officers first chosen in this Church, were John H. Lathrop, John W. Hanchett, Deacons; Seth H. Mann, George Smith, Charles A. Wheaton, and Ezra Stiles, Committee or Elders.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I. This Church shall be called the First

Congregational Church in Syracuse.

ARTICLE II. The government shall be vested solely in the Church, administered by it, in its collective capacity. The Church shall have power to raise temporary Committees, to transact any business which may be committed to them.

ARTICLE III. The officers shall consist of a Pas-

tor, four Deacons and a Clerk.

ARTICLE IV. It shall be the duty of the Church to examine all applicants for membership, who prezent themselves with letters or otherwise, as to their religious views and evidences of Christian charnater.

ARTICLE V. The Paster shall preside in the meetings of the Church, and shall have a casting vote. In his absence, another Minister, or any member of the Church, may be called to preside; but such Minister may not give a casting vote.

ARTICLE VI. This Church shall be a Benevolent Association. The Deacons shall be a Committee to receive contributions, and to disburse them ac-

cording to the wishes of the donors.

ARTICLE VII. No slaveholder, nor any one who justifies slavery, or any one who traffics in, or uses intoxicating liquors as a beverage, shall be admitted to our pulpit, or received, or continued as a member of this Church.

ARTICLE VIII. The annual meeting shall be held on the fourth Tuesday of May, in each year, when the Deacons and the Clerk shall be chosen by a major vote of all the members present.

ARTICLE IX. Notice of every regular election shall be given from the pulpit, at least two Sabbaths preceeding such election. Vacancies may be filled at any public meeting of the Church, notice thereof having been given from the pulpit on the

preceeding Sabbath.

ARTICLE X. This constitution may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the church present at any usual meeting, or meeting called for the purposes, notice thereof having been given at two public services on the preceding Sabbath.

CONFESSION OF FAITH.

- 1st. We believe there is one only living and true God, subsisting in three co-equal persons the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost—self existent, and infinite in every attribute, the Creator, Preserver, and Governor of the universe.

Deuteronomy vi. 4, 5-Mathew xxviii. 19-Coloss. i. 15, 16, 17-Genesis i. 1-2 Corinth. xiii, 14-Isaah

xlv. 5, 6, 7-1 John v. 7.

2d. We believe that the Bible, comprising the Old and New Testaments, is the word of God, given by inspiration, and is the only rule of faith and practice.

Psalms xix. 7, 8, and exix. 97-105—John v. 30— Proverbs xxx. 5, 6—2 Timothy iii. 16, 17—Isaiah v ii.

20-Hebrews i. 1, 2.

3d. We believe that man was created in a state of perfection, but that he fell from this state by sinning against God.

Genesis i. 26, 27, and iii. 14-19- Ecclesiastics vil. 29

-- Romans v. 12-19.

4th. We believe that man as a sinner deserves the curse of God; that God could not consistently restore him to his favor without an atonement, and that Jesus Christ, the second person in the Godhead, has, in our nature, offered himself a sacrificafor sin, so that God can now be "just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus."

Romans iii. 19-26, and vi. 23-Galatians iii. 8-14-

Isaiah liti, 4-6-John iii. 14-18.

5th. We believe that the atenement made by Jesus Christ, has opened the only door of hope to man; that salvation is freely offered in the guspel; that all who truly repent of sin and believe in the Lord Jesus, shall be saved; and that those who reject Christ will perish through their own impenitunce and unbelief.

Acts iv. 12-Mark xvi. 16-Acts xvi. 30, 31-Reve-

lations xxi. 17-Luke xiii. 3-John iii. 36.

6th. We believe that all men, till renewed by the divine spirit, are under the influence of "the carnal mind," which "is enmity against God," and that without regeneration or a change of heart, no sinner can be saved.

John iii, 3-7--Romans viii: 7--Titus iii. 4-6.

7th. We believe that a saving change is wrought in the heart of the sinner by the spirit of God, and that this change is effected in a manner perfectly consistent with the freedom and agency of the creature: that while eternal life is offered to all, through that atonement which has been made for the sine of the world, and while all if left to themselves, would continue, through their own fault, to neglect this great salvation, the Spirit, in the sovereignty of his operations, and according to the purposes of God, inclines the sinner to the exercise of repentance unto life and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians ii. 1-10--Phili1pians ii. 12, 13.

8th. We believe that the children of God are ereated in Christ Jesus, unto good work and that a new heart will evince itself in the various duties of a holy life.

James ii. 14-26.

9th. We believe that Jesus Christ will appear at the end of time, to raise the dead and judge the world; that all changes in moral character, which are incident to a state of probation, will then cease; that the righteous will be received into life eternal, and the wicked will go away into everlasting punishment.

Mathew xxv. 31-46-John v. 28, 29.

COVENANT.

With this public profession of your faith, you now present yourself, (or yourselves) to enter into

covenant with God and this church.

You do, this day, call heaven and earth to witness, that you renounce the world as your portion, and choose the Lord Jehovah to be your all-sufficient and eternal good. You avouch the God of angels to be your God and Father, the Lord Jesus Christ to be your Saviour, and the Holy Ghost to be your Sanctifier and Comforter.

You do now in the same solemn manner, call upon-angels and men to witness this public conserration of all that you are and have to the grory of God:—to the eternal Father who made you, to the Son of God who died for you, and to the Divine Spirit who alone can sanctify your heart (or hearts.)

You do now come out from the world and take the followers of Christ to be your brethren. You engage to walk with this Church in all its ordinances and institutions of the gospel; to submit to the discipline which Jesus Christ has instituted in his spiritual kingdom; to sanctify the Lord's day; to attend upon the public worship of the sanctuary; to observe the sacraments of the New Testament. baptism and the Lord's supper; to live in the habitual exercise of secret and social prayer; (and you who are placed at the head of a family, to maintain family worship); to assemble with the people of God during the week, as you may have opportunity, particularly upon the stated and occasional meetings of the Church, for religious worship; and to discharge all those duties by which God may be glorified and the religion of the Bible extended and established among men.

Sensible of your own insufficiency, and depending upon divine grace for necessary nid, you do now take upon yourself (or nourselves) these pub-

lic and solemn vows.

COVENANT

ON THE PART OF THE CHURCH.

We, then, as a Church, rendering thanks to God, who we trust has inclined your heart to fear his name, do cordially receive you as a member of the same family, promising to watch over you, advise you, reprove you, and pray for you, and use every means for your temporal and spiritual good, and our mathal editection. "The Lord bless thee and keep thee; the Lord make his face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee; the Lord lift up his countenance upon thee and give thee peace."

OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH.

PORTER H. SNOW, Pastor.

JOEL DANFORTH,
PETER McDonald,
STEPHEN E. MALTEY,
LYMAN KINGSLEY,

Deacons.

W. M. CLARKE, Clerk.

MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH.

Mrs. Ann Austin. Almerin R. Austin, Mrs. Diantha Allen, Abraham Austin, Mrs. Jenette Austin, Mrs. H. S. Alvord, Mrs. Nancy Adair, William E. Abbott, Mrs. Jane A. Abbott, Mrs. Patty Abbott, Miss Elizabeth Abbott, Caleb Brown. Mrs. Catharine Brown, Mrs. Alida Bartlett, Abner Bates. Mrs. Electa Bates. Mrs. Ann S. Brintnall, Cortland Bates. Mrs. Julia A. Bates. Mrs. Sally Bates,

Mrs. Rachel Burns. Miss Mary J. Bingham. Joseph G. Brower, Mrs. Mariah H. Brower. Mrs. Elizabeth Burns. Mrs. Harriet A. Burleigh, Miss Sarah M. Beeman Mrs. Harriet Bennett. Wm. M. Clarke. Mrs. Clara C. Clarke. Abraham Congdon, Mrs. Electa Congdon, Miss Catharine Congdon Sylvester H. Cook. Mrs. Sarah J. Cook, Mrs. Mary A. Cottle, Ira H. Cobb. Mrs. Esther B. Cobb. Mrs. Ann Davis. Mrs. Magdalene Dingle. Miss Mary J. Day, Mrs. Elizabeth A. Draper, Guy Davis, Mrs. Margaret E. Davis, Mrs. Ellzabeth Dedell, Stewart B. Dewey, Joel Danforth, Mrs. A. C. B. Danforth, Mrs. Caroline Denn, Miss Matilda Dickinson, Mrs. Silence Doud, Miss Francis Dean, David Elsworth, Mrs. Euphemia Elsworth Mrs. Susan Foster, Miss Susan Foster, Mrs. Phebe A. Gardner, Mrs. Margaret Hanchett, M. Waldo Hanchett, Frederick M. Hodge, Mrs. Eveline Hodge, John S. Hyde, Mrs. Vestatia J.W. Hyde, Mrs. Mary B. Hooker, Miss Ann Henderson, Mrs. Ann Jackson, Seymour King, Mrs. Adaline R. King, Lyman Kingsley, Mrs. Sylvia B. Kingsley, Mrs. Lucia Kingsley, Mrs. Eliza A. Kelsey, John H. Lathrop, Mrs. Susan Lathrop,

David L. Lathron. John A. Leonard, Mrs. Louisa Leonard, Mrs. Mary A. Loomis. Mrs. Sarah Lewis, Mrs Phebe Leverich, Miss Cath'n McDougatl, Daniel McDougall, Miss Marg't McDougall, Mrs. Jane McDougall, Mrs. Eliza May, James Munn, Peter McDonnld, Mrs. M. G. McDonald, Mrs. Martha Weldram, Ovid Miner, Mrs. Eliza M. Miner. Miss Harriet M. Miller, Stephen E. Maltby, Mrs. Ann Malthy. Henry Nash, Edward Ongley, Mrs. Sarah Ongiev, Miss Caroline Perkins, Benjamin Perkins, Mrs. Olive Perkins, Miss Emma C. Palmer, Henry Plumb, Mrs. Harriet Plumb, Mrs. Rosaline Quaif, Mrs Lucetta Rider. Halsey Rice, Mrs. Mary Rice, Levi Segar,

Mr. May A. Sloan

James Stoddard, Henry Van Driesen,
Reuben R. Stetson, Charles A. Wheaton,
Mrs. Ellen T. Stetson, Mrs. Ellen Wheaton,
Mrs. Sarah Salisbury, Thomas G. White,
Mrs. Asenath F. Snow, Gilbert A. Wilcox,
Mrs. Mary A. Smith, Mrs. Harriet Willcott,
Miss Margaret Tallman, Miss Elizabeth Wilcox,
Mrs. Clarissa Tallman, Mrs. Polly Walker,
Whole number of persons received into the
Church since its organization, 440
Whole number dismissed during the same time, 274
" excommunicated, 11
" of deaths, 72
" now in communion, 128

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Syraeuse, 1850.

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